Verne Kelsey Papers  
(Collection 050)

Biography

Verne Kelsey was born on July 12, 1897 at Indianapolis, Indiana. He attended Maplewood Academy in Minnesota for two years, and another two at Sheyenne River Academy in North Dakota, finishing in 1917. Kelsey had a natural talent for music, but his father’s church school teacher salary was not enough to afford lessons. Therefore, he received little early formal musical training. He was largely self-taught. Pursuing a music career, Kelsey moved to San Francisco, California, in the early 1920s, becoming acquainted with many musicians who nurtured his talent.

In 1929 Kelsey was called to teach at Canadian Junior College in Alberta, where, because of his independent study, he was able to pass degree examinations from the Toronto Conservatory of Music and the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music in London.

From 1933 to 1943, Kelsey and his wife, Irma, worked in various conferences in the United States doing evangelism and teaching at church schools. In 1944 they moved to Emmanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University), where Kelsey finally received a BA degree in Music and minor in German and Mathematics. He taught at Emmanuel Missionary College until his retirement in 1962, along the way earning a Master of Music (1945) and a Doctor of Fine Arts (1951) from Chicago Musical College.

Arrangement

The collection covers much of Kelsey's life, including his (1) General biographical information, (2) Education, and (3) Career. Also within this collection is Kelsey’s (4) Correspondence, compiled over the years, a large portion of which were with his close friend and musician Hans Moldenhauer. The next section, (5) Writings, contains some of Kelsey’s articles in the College paper, clippings about him, and other writings he compiled. A large portion of this collection is dedicated to Kelsey’s (6) Music. Also within this collection is a section on his wife, (7) Irma Kelsey, and her first husband (8) Amos Everett. The last section (9) Other, is a collection of Kelsey’s miscellaneous items.

Provenance

Verne Kelsey donated these papers to the Andrews University Heritage Room between 1972 and 1975.
Extent

5 boxes [1.6 linear feet]

Use

All users of this collection will complete the Application to Use Unpublished Records, and observe the regulation specified in the Patron’s Agreement and Researcher’s Code of Conduct. All records in this collection are open and available for research. Suggested citation for this collection:

Box ___, fld ___, Verne Kelsey Collection (Collection 050), Center for Adventist Research, James White Library, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI.
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Verne Kelsey Papers
(Collection 050)

I. General Biographical

Box 1 Fld 1 Autobiography
   Autobiographical information (2 pages)
   Autobiographical information (1 page)
   Short autobiography of Kelsey (April 1972)

Box 1 Fld 2 Five Year Diary, 1941 to 1945

Box 1 Fld 3 Guest Book, 1946 to 1960

Box 1 Fld 4 Guest Book, 1960 to 1965

Box 1 Fld 5 Other Personal Items
   Birth Certificate, July 11, 1897
   Government Registration Certificate, February 14, 1942 (2 cards)
   Passport, February 23, 1956
   Vaccination record, 1958
   The British Museum
      Admission, August 20, 1956
      Receipt, August 31, 1959
      Admission renewal, September 1, 1959
   Membership Certificate, The National Geographic Society, January 1, 1968

Box 1 Fld 6 Pictures
   Kelsey Coat of Arms (2 pages, with photograph)
   Verne Kelsey silhouette portrait
   Photo negatives of Verne Kelsey (2 photos)
   Verne Kelsey, 1914
   Verne Kelsey with two other people, 1920s
   Verne Kelsey, 1932
   Verne Kelsey playing the organ, July 1945
II. Education

Canadian Junior College

Box 1 Fld 7 Departmental Examinations records, 1932 (1 page)

Box 5 (Oversize)
Teacher’s Certificate for Theory, 1932

Home Study Institute Certificates

Box 1 Fld 8 New Testament Greek I, October 27, 1937
Trigonometry, June 24, 1943
New Testament Greek II, January 18, 1944
Principles of Education, March 13, 1944

Emmanuel Missionary College

Box 1 Fld 9 Receipt, Emmanuel Missionary College entrance fee, November 11, 1943
Bachelor of Arts Diploma, Emmanuel Missionary College, May 28, 1945
Emmanuel Missionary College Commencement Program, May 29, 1949 (2 copies)

Chicago Music College

Box 1 Fld 10 General
Registration sheet, June 23, 1949
Registration card, 1950
Bulletin 1950 to 1951
Report Card, undated
84th Annual Commencement Concert and Exercises, June 14, 1951
Doctor of Fine Arts Diploma, June 14, 1951
Photograph of six graduates, June 14, 1951
Chicago Musical College, Vol. 2 No. 2 (September 1951), Kelsey’s graduation

Box 5 (Oversize) Fld 1
Graduating Class Picture, June 14, 1951

Box 1 Fld 11 Comprehensive Exams, 1950
History of Music
History of Church Music
Harmony
Music Appreciation and Literature
Film Negatives
Music Sheets, 7 pages (probably from film negatives)

Certificates and Diplomas from Other Institutions

Box 1 Fld 12 Certificate, State board examination in agriculture, March 1916
Master of Music Diploma, Central YMCA College, Chicago, August 18, 1945
Photo negatives
Toronto Conservatory diploma (1931)
Teachers Certificate, Associated Board of Royal Schools of Music, London (1932)
Emmanuel Missionary College diploma (1945) and Central YMCA College diploma (1945)

Box 5 (Oversize)
Diploma in Composition, Toronto Conservatory of Music, August 31, 1931

Box 5 (Oversize)
Graduate cap and hood

III. Career

Box 2 Fld 1 Emmanuel Missionary College
Cardinal, Emmanuel Missionary College, 1962, with personal notes from other professors, possibly for Kelsey’s retirement

Box 2 Fld 2 Citation for Distinguished Service, June 3, 1962

Box 2 Fld 3 Picture slides
Graduation program at Pioneer Memorial Church, June 1962 (4 pictures)

Box 2 Fld 4 Scrapbook (not arranged topically or chronologically)
Evangelism.
Flyers (Ira C. Pound, Verne Kelsey, etc.)
Newspaper clippings
Health and cooking classes (clippings)
Music
Kelsey’s concert programs (1926 to 1945)
Newspaper clippings about concerts
Events at Emmanuel Missionary College
Commencement programs (1945 to 1946, 1949 to 1950)
Senior class programs (1945)

Education
Sheyenne River Academy final credit of scholarship (1917)
Toronto Conservatory of Music examination (1931)
Home Study Institute, Greek II (1943)
University of California Credit Certificate (1930)
Nashville Agricultural Normal Institute reports (1932 to 1933)
St. John Ambulance Association, Certificate in Home Nursing (1932)
Emmanuel Missionary College records (1944 to 1945)
Correspondence (3 letters, 1937 to 1945)

IV. Correspondence

Box 2 Fld 5 From Jan Chiapusso, 1938 to 1943 [6 letters]

Box 2 Fld 6 To and from Louise Dederen (concerning his papers at the Andrews University Heritage Room), 1972 to 1975 [21 letters]

Box 2 Fld 7 From F. A. Meier, 1960 to 1962 [4 letters]

Box 2 Fld 8 From Hans Moldenhauer, 1951 to 1970 [34 letters]

Correspondence from others, arranged alphabetically

Box 2 Fld 9 A to G [10 letters]
Box 2 Fld 10 H to M [11 letters]
Box 2 Fld 11 N to R [9 letters]
Box 2 Fld 12 T to W, and unknown senders [10 letters]
V. Writings

By Kelsey

Box 3 Fld 1 “European Memoirs” in *Student Movement* Vol. XLI
No. 22 (October 17, 1956)
No. 23 (October 24, 1956)
No. 24 (October 31, 1956)
No. 25 (November 7, 1956)
No. 27 (December 5, 1956)

Box 3 Fld 2 Clippings
Compiled on one page
“Letters Continued”
“Intellectual Giants”
Untitled, July 24, 1969
“The Psalter,” *The Youth’s Instructor* (October 16, 1956) (2 copies)
Compiled on one page
“Seventh-day Adventists and Health”

Box 3 Fld 3 Poem
Sonnet to a Mustache (2 copies)

Box 3 Fld 4 Personal notes, mostly in German, with references to page numbers

By Others

Box 3 Fld 5 Clippings about Kelsey
Compiled on one page
“Organ Recitals to be Given”
“Language Teacher Brushes Up German in Tour of Europe” (2 copies)
Compiled on one page
“Rev. Verne Kelsey Makes Brief Stay”
“Kelsey Gives Organ Recital”
“Dr. Kelsey to Present Organ Recital at EMC”
“Organ Recital is Announced”
Box 3 Fld 6  Notebook of quotations, mostly by Ellen G. White

Box 3 Fld 7  Binder of magazine selections
   From *Review*, (March 1880 to March 1898)
   From *Signs of the Times* (January 1879 to April 1915)
   From *Southern Watchman* (February to November 1904)
   Topical Index (20 pages)

Box 3 Fld 8  Reprints from *The Ministry*
   “Christ’s Nature During the Incarnation” (September 1956)
   “The Atonement–Atoning Sacrifice and Priestly Application” (December 1956, January to March 1957)
   “Christ’s Place in the Godhead” (unknown date)

Box 3 Fld 9  *The Cardinal*, Vol. 49 (1966), Andrews University

Box 3 Fld 10 Poetry
   Untitled poem, by Long Feh Loh
   “Love is a Loiterer” poem excerpt
   “The Cloud,” by So-wol Kim
   “Twas the night before Christmas....” (a different version, unknown author)

VI. Music

Concert Programs

Box 3 Fld 11  Concert programs of Kelsey’s performances (1925 to 1954)

Box 3 Fld 12  Concert programs of performances by other people, probably attended by Kelsey
   Jan Chiapusso Concert program (2 copies)
   Fletcher Academy Talent Program, 1970
   Catherine Lang
      Organ Vesper Concert Program, 1972
      Vesper Organ Recital, 1975
Kelsey’s Compositions and Arrangements

Music blank books

Box 3 Fld 13 Music blank book 1
Tarantella
Opus 25 No 3
Cepriecio
Feu Follet
L’Homme Arme’

Box 3 Fld 14 Music blank book 2
Variations on a Theme of Paganini

Box 3 Fld 15 Music blank book 3
Trio for piano, violin, cello

Box 3 Fld 16 Music blank book 4
Sonata for violin and piano
Sonata for clarinet

Box 3 Fld 17 Music blank book 5
Trio for Piano, Clarinet and Cello, May 17, 1958

Sheet music

Box 5 (Oversize) Fld 2
Sheet music 1
Three Fragments, 1925
Requiem
String Quartette, 1927
Psalm LXXXVI, 1931

Box 5 (Oversize) Fld 3
Sonata for cello and piano, 1960

Box 5 (Oversize) Fld 4
Sonata for clarinet and piano, 1967

Box 4 Fld 1 Sacred Solos, “My Soul; Wait Thou Upon God”

Box 4 Fld 2 String Quartet in A
Box 4 Fld 3  Etude by Chopin, arranged by Godowsky, set for 3 pianos

Box 4 Fld 4  Etude after Chopin op 10 no 5

Box 4 Fld 5  Prelude Chorale and Fugue on Familiar Tunes for Two Pianos

Box 4 Fld 6  Etude for Two Pianos, Chopin-Kelsey (after Godowski)

Music Related Documents

Box 5 (Oversize)
  Photo film roll
  J.S. Bach, “Zweiter Theil der Clavier Ubung”

Box 4 Fld 7  Other music
  Brahms Chamber-Music, 1901 (booklet)
  “Ein Ebriftenlichs Iyes Doctoris Martini Luthers” (film negative)
  “Ein Ebriftenlichs Iyes Doctoris Martini”

Box 4 Fld 8  Miscellaneous
  Program Booklet, Nineteenth National Convention of the American Guild of Organists, Saint Louis, Missouri (July 5 to 9, 1948)
  List of Autograph Music Manuscripts from the Moldenhauer Archive (3 pages)
  List of musical score titles (3 pages)

VII. Irma Kelsey [Wife of Verne Kelsey]

Box 4 Fld 9  General Biographical
  Biographical information (1 page)

Box 4 Fld 10 Compilation notebook
  Bible study notes, Ellen White quotations, clippings, recipes, and song lyrics

Box 4 Fld 11 Education
  Enrollment Card, Southeastern Union Conference, Department of Education
  Records of Scholarship, Emmanuel Missionary
College (1945 to 1946)

Box 4 Fld 12 Missionary Volunteer Certificates
- Primary Reading Course, 1943
- Junior Reading Course (7 certificates)
- Senior Reading Course (4 certificates)
- Senior Bible Year Certificate
- Study and Serve League

Box 4 Fld 13 Other Certificates
- American Red Cross (5 cards)
- Missionary Volunteer Vocational honors (14 cards)
- Teacher’s Reading Courses (2 certificates)
- Teacher’s Certificates (1943 and 1945)

VIII. Amos E. Everett [Irma Kelsey’s first husband]

Box 4 Fld 14 General Biographical
- Letters between Verne Kelsey and Mrs. Phyllis Pierson about Amos Everett materials, (October 23 and 30, 1972)
- Photograph (taken sometime before 1916)
  Attached testimony from H.W. Vollmer.
- Attached note from Verne Kelsey
- Genealogical record of the Everett Family since the Revolutionary War (4 pages)

Box 4 Fld 15 Legal documents
- Desert Lands Certificate, United States of America to Jane Everett, April 9, 1901
- Quit Claim Deed, Thos M. Everett et al (heirs of Jane Everett, deceased) to Amos E. Everett, August 15, 1921
- Notary Public documents, September 12 and 19, 1921 (4 pages)
- Administrators Deed of the estate of Jane Everett (deceased) to Amos Everett, December 14, 1921
- Warranty Deed, Lucy A. Phillips to Amos E. Everett, February 21, 1924
- Warranty Deed, Amos E. Everett and Irma V. Everett to Lucy A. Phillips, February 23, 1924
- Bill of Sale, Amos E. Everett and Irma V. Everett to Lucy A. Phillips, February 1924
- Certificate of Title of a Motor Vehicle, February 27,
1931

Motor Vehicle License Receipt, February 29, 1932
Receipt, Certified copy of death certificate of Amos E. Everett, July 28, 1932

Box 4 Fld 16 Evergreen Cemetery
  Deed to Amos E. Everett, December 18, 1912
  Receipt, December 18, 1912
  Receipt, December 18, 1912
  Bond to Amos E. Everett, December 18, 1912

IX. Other

Box 4 Fld 17 Miscellaneous documents
  Boarding passes, train and plane tickets, parcel delivery receipt, etc
  Andrews University guest card

Box 4 Fld 18 Books purchased from Kelsey
  Unknown buyer, 1962 (5 pages)
  By Music Materials Center, probably 1975 (14 pages)

Box 4 Fld 19 Toolkit, with a scalpel, tweezers, etc.

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